

To: Scott Hommel[scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Nancy Guiden[nancy_guiden@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james_cason@ios.doi.gov]; Megan Bloomgren[megan_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Bauserman, Christine[christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Caroline Boulton[caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov]
From: Domenech, Douglas
Sent: 2017-05-11T16:00:28-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/11/17
Received: 2017-05-11T16:00:58-04:00
[DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 5-11-17.docx](#)

Attached and copied below.

DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 5/11/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Status of the Secretary

The Secretary is traveling in Utah having meetings on the President's EO on National Monuments.

TODAY: The Secretary will:

- ☐ Travel to California. Travel paid by RNC.
- ☐ Attend the Spring RNC meeting.
- ☐ Meet with American Samoan fishing interests concerning Monuments.
- ☐ Attend a Pacific Islander Reception.
- ☐ POLITICAL EVENT: Keynote Remarks at the RNC Spring Meeting Dinner

Friday, May 12, 2017

Travel to Montana.

VPOTUS lands at 1:00pm MDT

Arrive at Westmoreland Coal Company Tour of Westmoreland Coal Company Property on Horseback

Roundtable with Tribal Leaders & Absaloka Mine Energy Producers

POLITICAL EVENT: Rally for Greg Gianforte, Candidate for MT-AL

VPOTUS remarks at 6:35PM

Long Range: 5/25-5/28. The Secretary will participate in a CODEL sponsored by Senator Murkowski. Arctic Council. Norway, Greenland, Alaska. The Secretary is set to keynote the Alaska Oil & Gas Association meeting in Anchorage 5/31.

Upcoming Media

- ☐ **Ebeye Education Summit in Marshall Islands Funded by Interior Successful**—Office of Insular Affairs.
- ☐ **GoMMAPPS, a partnership program to improve protected species assessments in the Gulf of Mexico.** – Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.
- ☐ **USGS Study looks at Radon in Pennsylvania Ground Water:** 87 percent of 1,000 private Pennsylvania wells, which were tested from 1986 – 2015, had radon levels at or

above maximum contaminant levels. Radon released from ground water can increase radon air concentrations, and contribute to a person's daily radon exposure.

Partners/Stakeholders: Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

☐ **Public Comment Sought on DEIS/HBC for the R-Project Transmission line in Nebraska** – Fish and Wildlife Service.

☐ **National Bison Range Decision Finalized** – Fish and Wildlife Service.

☐ **New USGS Maps of Mars Reveal Ancient Oases: A Great Place to Search for Life on Mars**— A new set of high-resolution geologic maps reveal complex geologic processes that suggest a dynamic, wet environment existed on early Mars. Background: Results reveal possible distributions of past habitable sites and areas that have the potential to accumulate markers of any organisms that might have lived in them.

☐ **Bureau of Reclamation Awards \$23.6 Million for Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Authorized Projects, Feasibility Studies and Research Studies:** Funding Goes to Six Authorized Projects, Thirteen Feasibility Studies and Four Research Studies in California, Kansas, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah

- City of Pasadena Water and Power Department, Pasadena Non-Potable Water Project, Phase I, \$2,000,000
- City of San Diego, San Diego Area Water Reclamation Program, \$4,200,000
- Hi-Desert Water District, Hi-Desert District Wastewater Reclamation Project, \$4,000,000
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Lower Chino Dairy Area Desalination and Reclamation Project, \$5,199,536
- Padre Dam Municipal Water District, San Diego Area Water Reclamation Program, \$3,900,000
- Santa Clara Valley Water District, South Santa Clara County Recycled Water Project, \$1,680,593
- City of Ada Public Works Authority, Reuse Feasibility Study for the City of Ada, Oklahoma, \$136,193
- City of Bartlesville (Oklahoma), Feasibility Study to Augment Bartlesville Water Supply with Drought-Resilient Reclaimed Water, \$150,000
- City of Garden City (Kansas), Strategic Plan for Reuse Effluent Water Resources in Garden City, Kansas, and Vicinity, \$65,368
- City of Quincy (Washington), Quincy 1 Water Resource Management Improvement Feasibility Study for Comprehensive Wastewater Reuse and Water Supply Project, \$150,000
- El Paso Water Utilities - Public Services Board, Aquifer Storage-Recovery with Reclaimed Water to Preserve Hueco Bolson using Enhanced Arroyo Infiltration for Wetlands, and Secondary Reducing Local Power Plant Reclaimed Water Demand, \$150,000
- Kitsap County (Washington), Feasibility Study for a comprehensive water reuse project at the Kitsap County Kingston Wastewater Treatment Plant, \$150,000.
- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Pure Water Project Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, \$150,000
- North Alamo Water Supply Corporation, Feasibility Study of Energy-Efficient Alternatives for Brackish Groundwater Desalination for the North Alamo Water Supply Corporation, \$90,000
- Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Feasibility Study of Potential Impacts of Select

Alternative Produced Water Management and Reuse Scenarios, \$150,000

- Soquel Creek Water District, Pure Water Soquel - Replenishing Mid-County Groundwater with Groundwater with Purified Recycled Water, \$150,000
- Valley Center Municipal Water District, Lower Moosa Canyon Wastewater Recycling, Reuse, and sub-regional Brine Disposal Project, \$150,000
- Washoe County, Northern Nevada Indirect Potable Reuse Feasibility Study, \$150,000
- Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District Reuse Feasibility Study, \$150,000
- City of San Diego, Demonstrating Innovative Control of Biological Fouling of microfiltration/ Ultrafiltration and Reverse Osmosis Membranes and Enhanced Chemical and Energy Efficiency in Potable Water, \$300,000
- City of San Diego, Site-Specific Analytical Testing of RO Brine Impacts to the Treatment Process, \$48,526
- Kansas Water Office, Pilot Test Project for Produced Water near Hardtner, Kansas, \$199,175
- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Truinfo Demonstration Project, \$300,000

Speaking Invitations

Accepted

5/16 DOI Annual Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony (DC)
5/31 Alaska Oil and Gas Association Conference remarks in Anchorage

-

Regretted

5/10 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Spring Conference (Monterey, CA)
5/11 Ball on the Mall (DC) (I forgot to add this one last week)
5/11 Safari Club International Lobby Day (Crystal City, VA)
5/12 Heritage Foundation's Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies' 2017 Spring Legal Strategy Forum (Colorado Springs, CO)
5/16 Western Growers' Board of Directors Meeting (DC)
5/19 Montana Logging Association Annual Meeting (Bozeman, MT)
5/20 Zoar Maifest National Historic Landmark Designation (Zoar, OH)
5/23 7th Annual Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Dinner (Boston, MA)
6/3 Ducks Unlimited National Convention (San Antonio, TX)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

5/23 Southwest Border Forum (Phoenix, AZ)
5/24 Virginia Chamber of Commerce Energy Conference
5/24 National Wildlife Refuge Association (DC)
5/25 US Oil & Gas Association Board of Directors Meeting (DC)
6/5 Society of American Indian Government Employees Annual Training Program (Scottsdale, AZ)
6/6 Recreation Vehicle Industry Association Joint Committee Lunch (DC)

Policy Matter

The US-China Science Cooperation Protocol is due to be renewed this month. Our USGS says it is routine however the National Science Foundation feels that the NSC should be notified. The State Department has established a number of Science and Technology Cooperation Agreements with countries around the world, which have been in place for decades. Under these agreements, U.S. scientific agencies are encouraged by the State Department to collaborate with their counterparts on subjects of mutual interest (and State monitors/assists with these activities). More information is available if needed.

Emergency Management

In Georgia, the West Mims Fire in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has burned 143,893 (+3,484) acres. The fire is 12 (no change)-percent contained and managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team with 711 (-14) personnel assigned, including 106 (+6) DOI personnel. There are 800 (no change) residences and 7 (no change) commercial structures threatened. Active fire behavior continued during this operational period, including very intense fire behavior on the southeastern side of the fire, where the fire escaped containment and made a hard push to the south and east, west of St. George, GA. The containment date remains November 1.

Media of Interest

Secretary Zinke Caps Utah Trip With Visit To Grand Staircase Monument.

The AP (5/10) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was set to visit the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument on Wednesday, capping “his four-day visit to Utah to inspect two national monuments in a review ordered by President Donald Trump.” USA Today (5/11, Demille) reports that “seeing the Grand Staircase provided some perspective, Zinke said, arguing the tour armed him with some perspective as he continues the review process and gave him a up-close view behind some of the emotions of the issue.”

Interior Department Moving Forward With Plans To Conduct Seismic Surveys In Atlantic.

The AP (5/10, Daly) reports the Trump Administration is moving forward with plans to conduct seismic surveys in the Atlantic Ocean, the first step toward offshore drilling in the region. The Interior Department said it is reviewing six applications by energy companies that were rejected by the Obama Administration. The department said that the surveys are needed to update information about the Outer Continental Shelf because the current data is more than 30 years old.

NPS Announces Plans To Reduce Grand Canyon Bison Numbers.

The AP (5/10) reports that the National Park Service has “announced plans to reduce the number of bison found near the Grand Canyon’s North Rim through lethal and nonlethal means.” The NPS “released a draft plan Tuesday which outlines the nonlethal capture and removal of bison as well as lethal culling by trained volunteers.” The goal is to reduce “Grand Canyon bison numbers from 400 to 600 to fewer than 200 over the following three to five years.”

Senate Upholds BLM’s Methane Rule.

The New York Times (5/10, A1, Davenport) reports that the Senate voted 51-49 Wednesday

to “uphold an Obama-era climate change regulation to control the release of methane from oil and gas wells on public land.” The Times calls the vote to “block consideration of a resolution to repeal the 2016 Interior Department rule to curb emissions of methane,” a “surprising victory for...Obama’s environmental legacy,” but adds that it “marked the first, and probably the only, defeat of a stream of resolutions over the last four months...to unwind regulations approved late in the Obama administration.” President Trump “anticipat[ed] of Republican defections,” and “sent Vice President Mike Pence to the Senate floor to break a tie vote. But with three members of his own party breaking away, Mr. Pence stood aside.”

Dakota Access Pipeline Leaks 84 Gallons In South Dakota.

The Hill (5/10, Henry) reports South Dakota officials are investigating a small leak in a pump connecting the Dakota Access pipeline to a crude oil storage tank that spilled 84 gallons of oil sometime in April. The officials said that the oil was captured by the absorbent material at the site and put back into the pipeline. The state will not fine Energy Transfer Partners because the spill was reported and cleaned up properly.

White House Communications Report

No report was sent Tuesday.

Federal Register Listings

There were no items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.

Doug Domenech
Senior Advisor
US Department of the Interior

DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 5/11/17

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Status of the Secretary

The Secretary is traveling in Utah having meetings on the President's EO on National Monuments.

TODAY: The Secretary will:

- Travel to California. Travel paid by RNC.
- Attend the Spring RNC meeting.
- Meet with American Samoan fishing interests concerning Monuments.
- Attend a Pacific Islander Reception.
- POLITICAL EVENT: Keynote Remarks at the RNC Spring Meeting Dinner

Friday, May 12, 2017

Travel to Montana.

VPOTUS lands at 1:00pm MDT

Arrive at Westmoreland Coal Company Tour of Westmoreland Coal Company Property on Horseback
Roundtable with Tribal Leaders & Absaloka Mine Energy Producers

POLITICAL EVENT: Rally for Greg Gianforte, Candidate for MT-AL

VPOTUS remarks at 6:35PM

Long Range: 5/25-5/28. The Secretary will participate in a CODEL sponsored by Senator Murkowski. Arctic Council. Norway, Greenland, Alaska. The Secretary is set to keynote the Alaska Oil & Gas Association meeting in Anchorage 5/31.

Upcoming Media

- **Ebeye Education Summit in Marshall Islands Funded by Interior Successful**—Office of Insular Affairs.
- **GoMMAPPS, a partnership program to improve protected species assessments in the Gulf of Mexico.** – Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.
- **USGS Study looks at Radon in Pennsylvania Ground Water:** 87 percent of 1,000 private Pennsylvania wells, which were tested from 1986 – 2015, had radon levels at or above maximum contaminant levels. Radon released from ground water can increase radon air concentrations, and contribute to a person's daily radon exposure. Partners/Stakeholders: Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
- **Public Comment Sought on DEIS/HBC for the R-Project Transmission line in Nebraska** – Fish and Wildlife Service.
- **National Bison Range Decision Finalized** – Fish and Wildlife Service.
- **New USGS Maps of Mars Reveal Ancient Oases: A Great Place to Search for Life on Mars**— A new set of high-resolution geologic maps reveal complex geologic processes that suggest a dynamic, wet environment existed on early Mars. Background: Results reveal possible distributions of past habitable sites and areas that have the potential to accumulate markers of any organisms that might have lived in them.
- **Bureau of Reclamation Awards \$23.6 Million for Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Authorized Projects, Feasibility Studies and Research Studies:** Funding Goes to Six Authorized Projects, Thirteen Feasibility Studies and Four Research Studies in California, Kansas, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah

- City of Pasadena Water and Power Department, Pasadena Non-Potable Water Project, Phase I, \$2,000,000
- City of San Diego, San Diego Area Water Reclamation Program, \$4,200,000
- Hi-Desert Water District, Hi-Desert District Wastewater Reclamation Project, \$4,000,000
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Lower Chino Dairy Area Desalination and Reclamation Project, \$5,199,536
- Padre Dam Municipal Water District, San Diego Area Water Reclamation Program, \$3,900,000
- Santa Clara Valley Water District, South Santa Clara County Recycled Water Project, \$1,680,593
- City of Ada Public Works Authority, Reuse Feasibility Study for the City of Ada, Oklahoma, \$136,193
- City of Bartlesville (Oklahoma), Feasibility Study to Augment Bartlesville Water Supply with Drought-Resilient Reclaimed Water, \$150,000
- City of Garden City (Kansas), Strategic Plan for Reuse Effluent Water Resources in Garden City, Kansas, and Vicinity, \$65,368
- City of Quincy (Washington), Quincy 1 Water Resource Management Improvement Feasibility Study for Comprehensive Wastewater Reuse and Water Supply Project, \$150,000
- El Paso Water Utilities - Public Services Board, Aquifer Storage-Recovery with Reclaimed Water to Preserve Hueco Bolson using Enhanced Arroyo Infiltration for Wetlands, and Secondary Reducing Local Power Plant Reclaimed Water Demand, \$150,000
- Kitsap County (Washington), Feasibility Study for a comprehensive water reuse project at the Kitsap County Kingston Wastewater Treatment Plant, \$150,000.
- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Pure Water Project Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, \$150,000
- North Alamo Water Supply Corporation, Feasibility Study of Energy-Efficient Alternatives for Brackish Groundwater Desalination for the North Alamo Water Supply Corporation, \$90,000
- Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Feasibility Study of Potential Impacts of Select Alternative Produced Water Management and Reuse Scenarios, \$150,000
- Soquel Creek Water District, Pure Water Soquel - Replenishing Mid-County Groundwater with Groundwater with Purified Recycled Water, \$150,000
- Valley Center Municipal Water District, Lower Moosa Canyon Wastewater Recycling, Reuse, and sub-regional Brine Disposal Project, \$150,000
- Washoe County, Northern Nevada Indirect Potable Reuse Feasibility Study, \$150,000
- Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District Reuse Feasibility Study, \$150,000
- City of San Diego, Demonstrating Innovative Control of Biological Fouling of microfiltration/ Ultrafiltration and Reverse Osmosis Membranes and Enhanced Chemical and Energy Efficiency in Potable Water, \$300,000
- City of San Diego, Site-Specific Analytical Testing of RO Brine Impacts to the Treatment Process, \$48,526
- Kansas Water Office, Pilot Test Project for Produced Water near Hardtner, Kansas, \$199,175
- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Truinfo Demonstration Project, \$300,000

Speaking Invitations

Accepted

5/16 DOI Annual Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony (DC)

5/31 Alaska Oil and Gas Association Conference remarks in Anchorage

Regretted

5/10 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Spring Conference (Monterey, CA)
5/11 Ball on the Mall (DC) (I forgot to add this one last week)
5/11 Safari Club International Lobby Day (Crystal City, VA)
5/12 Heritage Foundation's Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies' 2017 Spring Legal Strategy Forum (Colorado Springs, CO)
5/16 Western Growers' Board of Directors Meeting (DC)
5/19 Montana Logging Association Annual Meeting (Bozeman, MT)
5/20 Zoar Maifest National Historic Landmark Designation (Zoar, OH)
5/23 7th Annual Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Dinner (Boston, MA)
6/3 Ducks Unlimited National Convention (San Antonio, TX)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

5/23 Southwest Border Forum (Phoenix, AZ)
5/24 Virginia Chamber of Commerce Energy Conference
5/24 National Wildlife Refuge Association (DC)
5/25 US Oil & Gas Association Board of Directors Meeting (DC)
6/5 Society of American Indian Government Employees Annual Training Program (Scottsdale, AZ)
6/6 Recreation Vehicle Industry Association Joint Committee Lunch (DC)

Policy Matter

The US-China Science Cooperation Protocol is due to be renewed this month. Our USGS says it is routine however the National Science Foundation feels that the NSC should be notified. The State Department has established a number of Science and Technology Cooperation Agreements with countries around the world, which have been in place for decades. Under these agreements, U.S. scientific agencies are encouraged by the State Department to collaborate with their counterparts on subjects of mutual interest (and State monitors/assists with these activities). More information is available if needed.

Emergency Management

In Georgia, the West Mims Fire in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has burned 143,893 (+3,484) acres. The fire is 12 (no change)-percent contained and managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team with 711 (-14) personnel assigned, including 106 (+6) DOI personnel. There are 800 (no change) residences and 7 (no change) commercial structures threatened. Active fire behavior continued during this operational period, including very intense fire behavior on the southeastern side of the fire, where the fire escaped containment and made a hard push to the south and east, west of St. George, GA. The containment date remains November 1.

Media of Interest

Secretary Zinke Caps Utah Trip With Visit To Grand Staircase Monument.

The AP (5/10) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was set to visit the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument on Wednesday, capping "his four-day visit to Utah to inspect two national monuments in a review ordered by President Donald Trump." USA Today (5/11, Demille) reports that "seeing the Grand Staircase provided some perspective, Zinke said, arguing the tour armed him with some perspective as he continues the review process and gave him a up-close view behind some of the emotions of the issue."

Interior Department Moving Forward With Plans To Conduct Seismic Surveys In Atlantic.

The AP (5/10, Daly) reports the Trump Administration is moving forward with plans to conduct seismic surveys in the Atlantic Ocean, the first step toward offshore drilling in the region. The Interior Department said it is reviewing six applications by energy companies that were rejected by the Obama Administration. The department said that the surveys are needed to update information about the Outer Continental Shelf because the current data is more than 30 years old.

NPS Announces Plans To Reduce Grand Canyon Bison Numbers.

The AP (5/10) reports that the National Park Service has “announced plans to reduce the number of bison found near the Grand Canyon’s North Rim through lethal and nonlethal means.” The NPS “released a draft plan Tuesday which outlines the nonlethal capture and removal of bison as well as lethal culling by trained volunteers.” The goal is to reduce “Grand Canyon bison numbers from 400 to 600 to fewer than 200 over the following three to five years.”

Senate Upholds BLM’s Methane Rule.

The New York Times (5/10, A1, Davenport) reports that the Senate voted 51-49 Wednesday to “uphold an Obama-era climate change regulation to control the release of methane from oil and gas wells on public land.” The Times calls the vote to “block consideration of a resolution to repeal the 2016 Interior Department rule to curb emissions of methane,” a “surprising victory for...Obama’s environmental legacy,” but adds that it “marked the first, and probably the only, defeat of a stream of resolutions over the last four months...to unwind regulations approved late in the Obama administration.” President Trump “anticipat[ed] of Republican defections,” and “sent Vice President Mike Pence to the Senate floor to break a tie vote. But with three members of his own party breaking away, Mr. Pence stood aside.”

Dakota Access Pipeline Leaks 84 Gallons In South Dakota.

The Hill (5/10, Henry) reports South Dakota officials are investigating a small leak in a pump connecting the Dakota Access pipeline to a crude oil storage tank that spilled 84 gallons of oil sometime in April. The officials said that the oil was captured by the absorbent material at the site and put back into the pipeline. The state will not fine Energy Transfer Partners because the spill was reported and cleaned up properly.

White House Communications Report

No report was sent Tuesday.

Federal Register Listings

There were no items cleared for the FR on Wednesday.